

it—along with renovated mills, a canoe and boat landing, and parks that have been developed since the authorization of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor in 1986. The progress I observed that day was a result of collaboration among the residents of the Valley, State agencies and the Federal Government, and is proof that industrial rivers like the Blackstone can be saved if we all work together.

Above all else, Michael is a “river guy” who understands the significance of the “power of place” and the potential of people to shape their communities. In a recent news article announcing his appointment as superintendent of the Lowell National Historical Park, he states, “It’s been a great honor to serve the Corridor Commission for nearly a decade. I have always been impressed with the passion, creative ideas and commitment that the people have had for achieving the Heritage Corridor vision.”

The Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor is a unique institution that has brought together many divergent groups and raised the national profile of this very special region. I thank Michael for his years of service to this historic slice of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and I also wish him luck in his new endeavors in Lowell.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. ADRIAN ROGERS

● Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, some say we are living in the post-Christian era, but you would not have known it yesterday if you were among the 13,829 worshippers, as I was, at the retirement tribute to pastor Adrian Rogers at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis. I am a Presbyterian—but Presbyterian or Baptist, believer or nonbeliever, one could not help but be inspired by the services on Sunday and especially by Dr. Rogers himself.

Adrian Rogers is one of America’s best-known preachers. His “Love Worth Finding Ministries” is broadcast in more than 150 counties in both English and Spanish. He has authored 17 books, 48 booklets and 78 cassette tapes. He has been elected three times to lead the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dr. Rogers came to Bellevue in Memphis in 1972 when the Church was in Midtown, the enrollment was 9000 and the annual budget was \$625,000. Today the church spreads across 375 acres in Cordova, the enrollment is 29,000 and the budget is \$21 million.

What impresses me most is not this growth but the man himself. Like his friend Billy Graham, Adrian Rogers has not allowed his fame to diminish him personally. The most moving statements yesterday came from his children who testified that this man who everyone knows can talk the talk always walks the walk at home. Those who know him best say that he practices what he preaches. When he told his congregation, “I am what I am by the grace of God,” it was not mock humility.

There was much love expressed yesterday for Joyce Rogers, who Adrian said “is the only girl that I have ever dated.” She has sung in the choir, taught Sunday school and been his partner since their marriage in 1951.

Our founders made sure that we do not have a state church but that we do have freedom of religion. As a result of this constitutional guarantee, there is a church of some denomination on almost every American corner. This freedom has also proved to be a nurturing environment for independent leaders such as Adrian Rogers whose good lives attract us and inspire us and lead us to be among the world’s most religious people.

No mortal is perfect. I know of one blemish on my friend Adrian Rogers: He is a Florida Gators fan. In the spirit of yesterday, the Christian thing to do is to forgive him.●

HONORING JOHN “RED” BOURG

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Mr. John “Red” Bourg, who passed away last October. Red Bourg served his family, his State and his country well, and deserves the recognition of this body.

Red was a devout Christian, and he made a wonderful home in Baton Rouge with his wife Mildred and their two children, Brenda and Ronnie. Red loved and cared for the people of the State of Louisiana and the United States, and worked to improve their quality of life until the day he died.

In addition to being a great family man, Red Bourg served our country in peace and in war. As a young man, he joined the United States Marine Corps and fought in the Korean War, serving with honor and distinction. Years after returning, Red was selected to become the Louisiana State Commander of the Marine Corps League, an impressive honor, for an equally impressive person.

However, Red was best known for his work with the Louisiana AFL-CIO. He worked his way up the union ladder, beginning as a member of the Local 995 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and climbing all the way to become the president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO. Red joined the staff at the AFL-CIO in 1967, becoming the assistant to the president and in 1997, some 30 years later, he became President of that great organization. I think that says a lot about the hard work and determination of the man.

I once again honor my friend, Mr. John “Red” Bourg, for his efforts on Louisiana’s behalf. I knew Red my entire adult life and can attest that he is truly missed. I know I speak for many others when I say that Red Bourg will always be fondly remembered for the outstanding service he has rendered to his State and his Nation.●

HONORING SIBAL HOLT

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the service of Sibal

Holt, who is the first female and the first African American to serve as the President of the Louisiana AFL-CIO. Firsts like these have become commonplace for this barrier-breaking woman.

She has long been a trailblazer in the State of Louisiana. She became the first African American to be hired into the Bell System and also the first registered lobbyist in the State of Louisiana, both remarkable achievements given the climate of the times.

Sibal Holt has been a selfless steward of her community. She formerly served as the president of the Louisiana American Red Cross, as well as other charitable organizations, such as Volunteer Baton Rouge and the Baton Rouge Women’s Resource Center. Sibal is probably most recognized for her pioneering efforts in voter registration. Holt once led a statewide voter registration drive, resulting in an astounding 70,000 new voters for Louisiana.

But it is the AFL-CIO where she has left her biggest imprint. Sibal began her work at the AFL-CIO in 1975, not surprisingly becoming the first minority selected to join the Executive Board of any State’s AFL-CIO. Twenty-two years later, in 1997, she became the union’s Secretary/Treasurer, serving in that capacity until she was elected president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO in November 2004, replacing John “Red” Bourg after his untimely death.

I once again congratulate my friend, Sibal Holt, for her groundbreaking accomplishments on behalf of the working class in the State of Louisiana. It is people such as Sibal that continue to make Louisiana such a dynamic State.●

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 539. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide the protections of habeas corpus for certain incapacitated individuals whose life is in jeopardy, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 177. A bill to further the purposes of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 by directing the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to carry out an assessment and demonstration program to control salt cedar and Russian olive, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-15).

S. 178. A bill to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-16).

S. 214. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with the States on the border with Mexico and other appropriate entities in conducting a hydrogeologic characterization, mapping, and modeling program for priority transboundary aquifers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-17).